

CITY OF WICHITA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**EROSION CONTROL INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR  
OWNERS OF NEW HOMES**

As the owner of a new home, you are required to take steps to prevent soil erosion from your lot resulting in storm water pollution. On January 1, 1999, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Ordinance went into effect in the City of Wichita. The ordinance is the result of Federal pollution laws mandated by Congress. Provisions of the ordinance apply to all property owners and certain steps must be taken to assure soil from the site does not get washed into the streets, drainage ditches, backyard drainage swales, or ponds when storms occur.

If your yard is not yet in (having at least 75% of your grass established) you are required to use erosion control devices to ensure that soil does not erode from your property during storms. You can utilize devices such as silt fencing, sand bags, straw bales, or erosion control mats. If your yard is adjacent to a pond, creek, or other type of drainage feature you must take steps to assure sediment is not washed into these areas. If you have a walkout or viewout basement, a drainage easement will usually exist at the rear lot line. Sediment cannot be allowed in this area also. Care should be taken when landscaping the property to assure that soil on the site or additional soil that might be delivered to the site is contained.

To be effective, all erosion control devices must be dug into the ground and must be maintained on a regular basis. You should inspect the devices you install at least once each week and after every storm of ½-inch of rain or more. Maintenance includes repairing damaged devices and removing trapped sediment before 60% of the capacity of the device is used.

Failure to use effective erosion control devices will subject the property owner to the criminal penalties as prescribed in Section 16.32.100 of the City Code.